

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/887,609

Examiner

Boris Pesin

Applicant(s)

WOLFF ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/08/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 9-46.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Kristine Kincaid
KRISTINE KINCAID
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Allowable Subject Matter

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by Jens Jenkins on 4/12/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computing system that includes a display screen that is capable of displaying a variety of types of media, a method for providing a dynamically controllable user interface that embraces the variety of types of media, the method comprising the acts of:

displaying a menu system on the display screen, wherein the menu system includes first and second categories selectable by a viewer, each of the first and second categories having corresponding subcategories;

displaying the first category at a selected location of the display screen;

in response to receiving a selection of the second category by the viewer, automatically replacing the first category with the second category at the selected position of the display screen, and such that each displayed category that is selected is ratcheted to the selected position; and

displaying, with the second category, the subcategories corresponding to the second category in a single horizontal line, such that all of the subcategories corresponding to the second category can be accessed by horizontal scrolling of the menu system and without requiring any vertical scrolling of the menu system,

and wherein the only subcategories displayed on the display screen at a given instant in time are the one or more subcategories corresponding to a category displayed at the selected position on the display screen at the given instant in time, and wherein every subcategory corresponding to each of the displayed categories, is only ever displayed at any time for selection on the display screen in the single horizontal line, regardless of which category is selected, and wherein each of the subcategories corresponding to a selected category is accessible without requiring any displayed subcategory of the selected category to move vertically and such that any undisplayed subcategory corresponding to the selected category is accessible during navigation of the subcategories through horizontal navigation, and without any vertical movement of the displayed subcategories corresponding to the selected category.

18. (Currently Amended) A dynamically controllable menu system for use with a display screen that provides options selectable by a user to perform one or more functions on a variety of different types of media, the menu system comprising:

a plurality of categories displayed on the display screen, wherein the categories are capable of ratcheting such that any category from the plurality of categories that is selected by a user is automatically displayed at a selected location on the display screen, in response to being selected, while having the selected position remain constant, and such that every displayed category that is selected is ratcheted to the selected position; and

a plurality of subcategories corresponding to the plurality of categories, wherein the only subcategories displayed on the display screen at a given instant in time are the one or more subcategories corresponding to the selected category displayed at the selected position on the display screen at the given instant in time, and wherein all of the one or more subcategories corresponding to the selected category are displayed within a single horizontal line, such that all of the subcategories corresponding to the selected category can be accessed by

horizontal scrolling of the menu system and without requiring any vertical scrolling of the menu system, and wherein every subcategory corresponding to each of the displayed categories, is only ever displayed at any time for selection on the display screen in the single horizontal line, regardless of which category is selected, and wherein each of the subcategories corresponding to a selected category is accessible without requiring any displayed subcategory of the selected category to move vertically and such that any undisplayed subcategory corresponding of the selected category is accessible during navigation of the subcategories through horizontal navigation, and without any vertical movement of the displayed subcategories corresponding to the selected category.

23. (Currently Amended) A menu system for use in a computing system that includes a variety of options available to a user for controlling a variety of media, the menu system comprising:

- a contextual option, which upon selection, controls an aspect of media displayed on a display device; and

- a static option, which upon selection, executes a mini application while displaying the media on the display device, wherein the contextual option and the static option are organized in a categorical order that includes a plurality of categories, each of the categories having corresponding subcategories, wherein each of the displayed plurality of categories that is selected by the user is automatically displayed at a selected position on the display screen, in response to being selected by a user, and such that a category that is not displayed at the selected position automatically replaces a category that is being displayed at the selected position in response to being selected,

- wherein all subcategories corresponding to the selected category are displayed within a single horizontal line on the display screen, such that all of the subcategories corresponding to the selected category can be accessed by

horizontal scrolling of the menu system and without requiring any vertical scrolling of the menu system, and wherein the only subcategories displayed on the display screen at a given instant in time are the one or more subcategories corresponding to a category displayed at the selected position on the display screen at the given instant in time, and wherein every subcategory corresponding to each of the displayed categories, is only ever displayed at any time for selection on the display screen in the single horizontal line, regardless of which category is selected, and wherein each of the subcategories corresponding to a selected category is accessible without requiring any displayed subcategory of the selected category to move vertically and such that any undisplayed subcategory corresponding to the selected category is accessible during navigation of the subcategories through horizontal navigation, and without any vertical movement of the displayed subcategories corresponding to the selected category.

Claim 47. (Cancelled).

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regards to the independent claims 1, 18 and 23, the prior art does not teach a media interface displaying at least several categories on the screen at one time and in response to receiving a selection of a different category by the viewer, automatically replacing a first category with a second category at the selected position of the display screen, and such that each displayed category that is selected is ratcheted to the selected position, and displaying with the second category all the subcategories corresponding to the second category. It is important to note that only the

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subcategories of the category currently selected are displayed in a single horizontal line and that each of the subcategories corresponding to a selected category are accessible only through horizontal navigation of the menu. These limitations in combination with all of the other claim limitations are not taught by the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Pesin whose telephone number is (571) 272-4070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday except every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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